

Trick or treat ...a real spook

Terry Carpenter says he isn't going witch hunting but Halloween is only one day away.

The State Senator from Scottsbluff appeared to have a number of witches in mind yesterday when he chaired a meeting of the Subcommittee of the Legislative Council. He explained that the meeting was an effort "to determine what the course (Proseminar in Homophile Studies) is about, what materials are used, what approach is taken and who originated it." But, he spent most of the six and one half hours badgering witnesses, trying to embarrass the University and the Regents, and asking leading questions of those who testified.

The hearing was very enlightening, especially for one who thought that its purpose was the gathering of knowledge rather than use as a political arena. Carpenter destroyed the image of information gatherer even before the recess for lunch and revealed his true intent in three incredible statements.

Hours before he had questioned any of the professors and professional men involved in teaching the course, he stated, "I intend to introduce a bill at the next legislature that forbids the teaching of a course in homosexuality except in medical schools and I want to see a single senator who'll vote against it."

One had to wonder what semblance of impartiality the hearing could possibly retain after Carpenter announced, "This course is not going to have a long life as far as I'm concerned" — and he made that statement without having spoken to any instructors and without knowledge of the course's contents. Narrowing the aim of his anger, Carpenter claimed, "The Board of Regents is going to rue the day they ever thought of it."

Once, when all the instructors involved with the course were being questioned in a group, Carpenter asked that they recreate a class situation so he could understand what it was like. Admittedly, this seemed an odd request from the man who has stated that he has never attended the real class and "doesn't intend to." James Cole, coordinator of the course, responded with a delineation of definitions and the etiology of homosexuality, but this didn't please Carpenter who asked Cole to get down to the "nitty-gritty." "What's it like?" he demanded. "How many positions are there?"

Leading the group off the subject of the course, Carpenter urged individuals time and again to make statements of personal beliefs and tried to elicit a group "consensus" on matters other than those relating directly to the proseminar. He craftily tried a minimum of ten times to draw out a group opinion of the present laws dealing with sexual matters. However he was foiled each time as individuals pointed out that they would speak to such an issue if asked to by a committee dealing with law reform, but that they would not issue individual statements or a group statement.

With a finely honed political sense, dull mind and blunt approach, Carpenter tried to draw agreement on the idea that a homosexual is best qualified to teach a course on homosexuality and that the instructors probably are homosexual. Giving a hint of the rhetoric in the campaign-to-come, he asked "How can anyone teach a course of such a fundamental and physical nature unless they'd participated in it? If they're going to teach the kids," he added, "they ought to go out and try it."

The administrators, regents and instructors who were called to testify performed admirably despite all the harassment and abuse. Standing center ring in Carpenter's private circus, they let the clown trap himself in a web of contradictions, malice and nonsense.

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THE TIME IS SOON COMING WHEN YOUNG CHILDREN, DRESSED IN CUTE COSTUMES WILL BE CRYING "TRICK OR TREAT"



BUT WHAT'S THIS? A NOT-SO-YOUNG YOUNGSTER, IN A NOT-SO-CUTE COSTUME, YELLING THINGS OTHER THAN "TRICK OR TREAT!" YEP! IT'S SUPERFAN!!

WHAT IS THE SECRET OF HIS AMAZING POWERS? — ITS A SECRET ELIXIR HE HIDES IN FAKE BINOCULAR CASES, ETC.....



MADE COURAGEOUS BY HIS ELIXIR, SUPERFAN BRAVES THE INTERSTATE TRAFFIC...



LISTEN AGAIN NEXT MONDAY, AND YOU MIGHT HEAR HIS AWE-INSPIRING CRY... "I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF!"

Letters

A town meeting

Dear Editor,

A sensible proposal:

We call on the Regents of the University of Nebraska to meet with the rest of the members of the University community to discuss the decision not to hire Michael Davis as a professor in the philosophy department. Because of the continuing controversial nature of this decision it is of ultimate importance that an open discussion be held. A free exchange of ideas could best be heard in an open town meeting forum in which interested persons could make presentations and ask questions concerning the decision.

WE CALL on the Regents to meet with the community at the maximum two weeks after their next regularly scheduled meeting. It would be best if the meeting would occur in late morning on a week day running into the evening. This matter is

of such great importance that any inconvenience involved would be worth the effort.

THE MEETING should at least be held in a room as large as the Centennial Room of the Union. If a larger area such as the Coliseum is needed it should be available for all those persons who wish to attend such a meeting. It is very important that the chairman of the meeting be one who is mutually respected by the concerned persons in this matter.

It is of great importance that the Regents be in a position to be able to attempt to fully justify their action in not hiring Michael Davis. The people attending should be able to ask each other straightforward questions and expect straightforward responses.

WE AGAIN point to the great issue at stake in such a meeting. Who is welcome to be a member of the University of

Nebraska faculty? What specifically are the criteria that are applied to applicants? Who determines which candidates will be accepted? What are the responsibilities of those who make the decision in hiring? What are the responsibilities of the applicants? What are the respective freedoms of the hirers and the applicants? What are the relative roles of the Regents, administrators, faculty, students, and the larger community in respect to selection of faculty members? At the center of these questions is the action taken by the Regents in reference to Michael Davis? Was such an action justified?

THESE QUESTIONS ought to be discussed in a public meeting for the sake of fairness to the very nature and future of the University community. A just response ought to be forthcoming from the persons involved in this meeting.

Ron Kurtenbach